MARVEL COMICS
THE AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN
#19
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MACKIE
LARSEN
BEATTY
VENOM
THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS!

At a demonstration on Radiation, high school student PETER PARKER was bitten by an Irradiated Spider from which he gained the Arachnid's Incredible Abilities. When a burglar killed his beloved Uncle Ben, a grief-stricken Peter vowed to use his Great Powers in the service of his fellow man, because he learned an invaluable lesson: With Great Power must also come Great Responsibility. STAN LEE PRESENTS:
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!
MIRROR MIRROR
Did you ever feel, in the wee hours of the night, that your life was closing in on you?
Hard to tell nightmare from reality as shadows stretch forward threatening to engulf you.
Your eyes open, but you still might be asleep.
Sometimes you've just got to go with it and hope that it is a dream.
Peter Parker is having one of those nights.
And it's only going to get worse!
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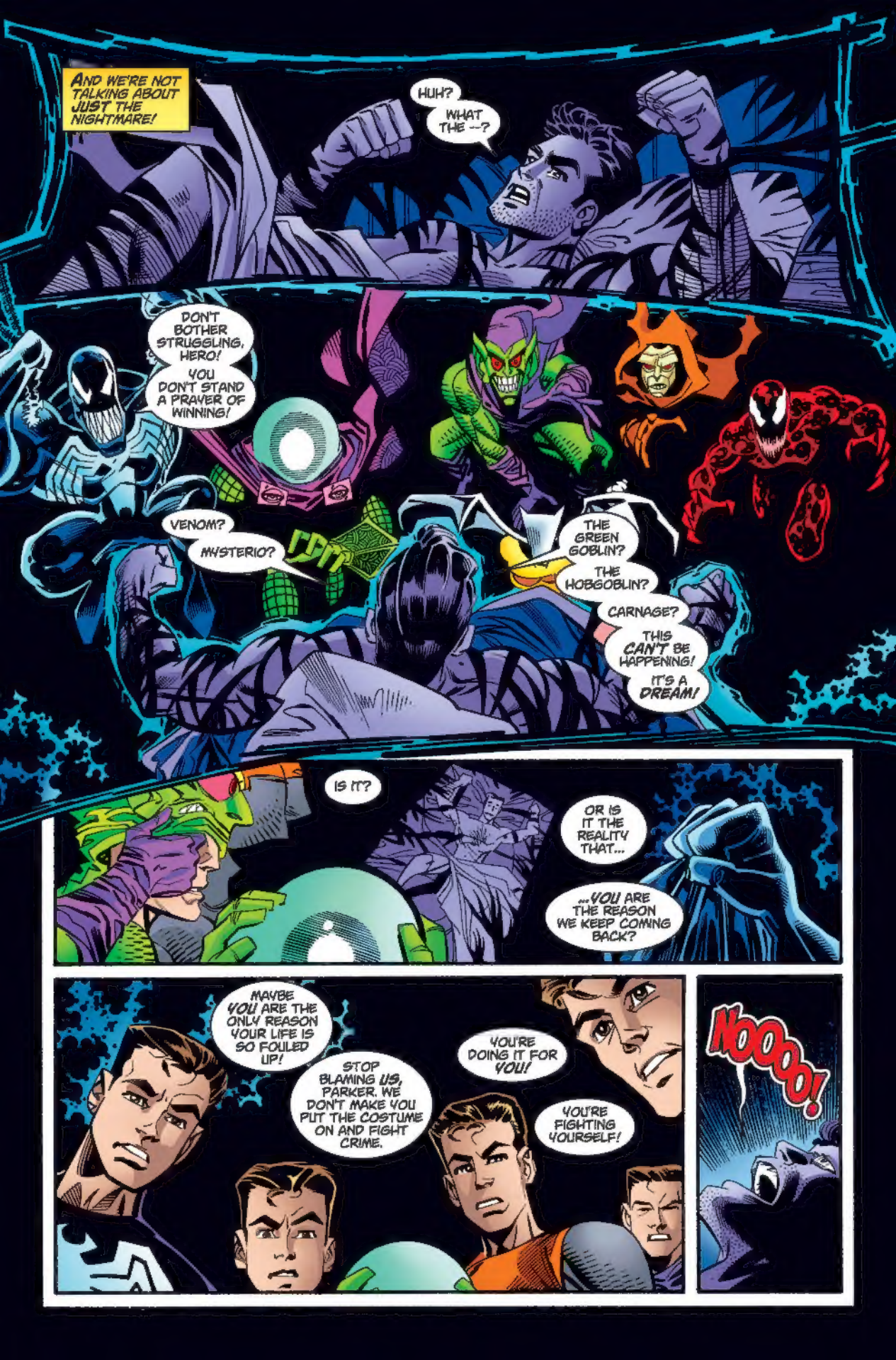
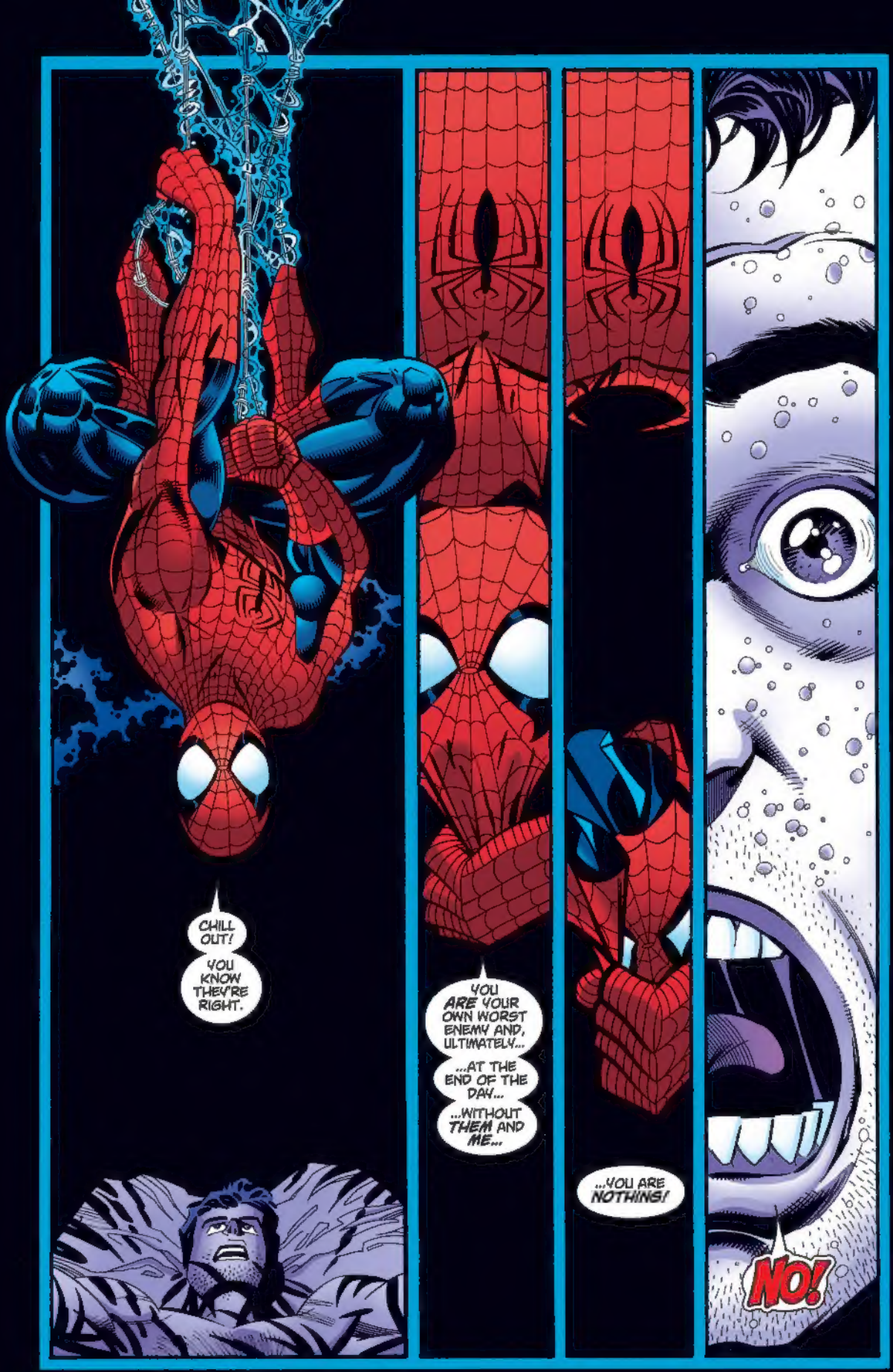
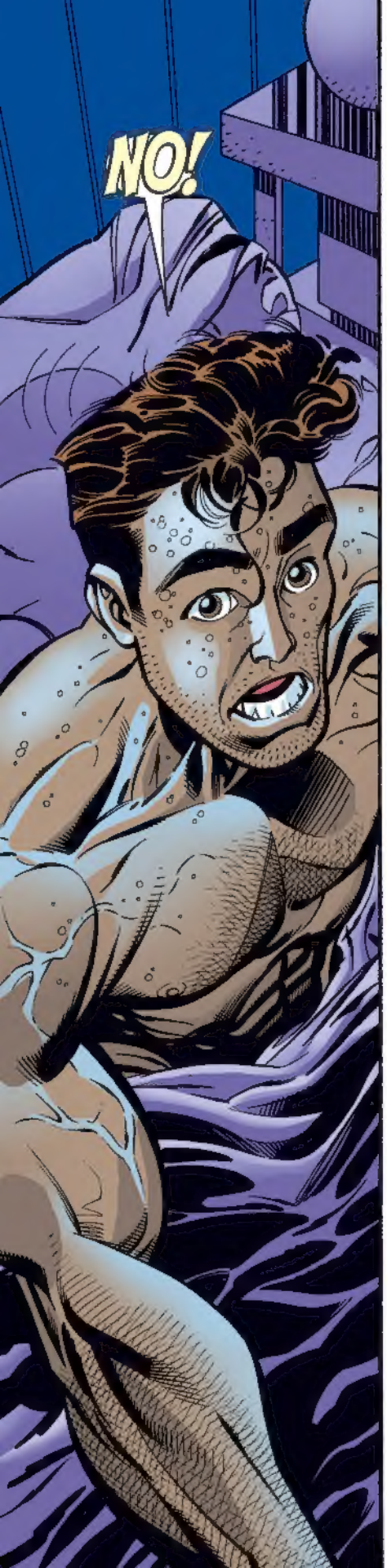
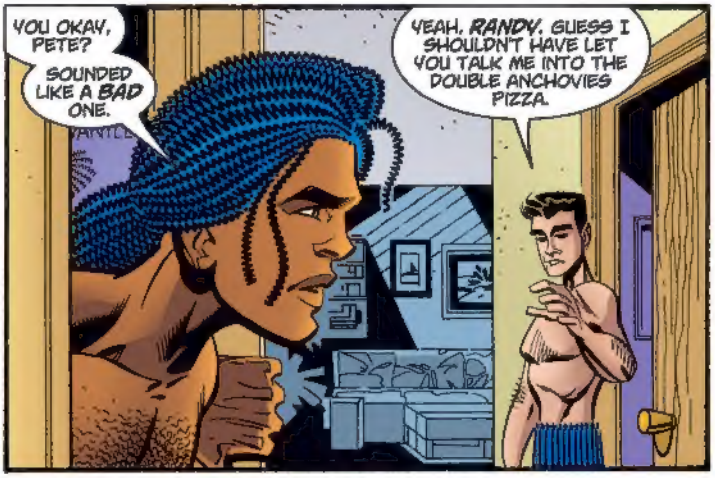

AND WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT JUST THE NIGHTMARE!
HUH?
WHAT THE --?
DON'T BOTHER STRUGGLING, HERO!
YOU DON'T STAND A PRAYER OF WINNING!
VENOM?
MYSTERIO?
THE GREEN GOBLIN?
THE HOBGOBLIN?
CARNAGE?
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!
IT'S A DREAM!
IS IT?
OR IS IT THE REALITY THAT...
...YOU ARE THE REASON WE KEEP COMING BACK?
MAYBE YOU ARE THE ONLY REASON YOUR LIFE IS SO FOULED UP!
STOP BLAMING US, PARKER. WE DON'T MAKE YOU PUT THE COSTUME ON AND FIGHT CRIME.
YOU'RE DOING IT FOR YOU!
YOU'RE FIGHTING YOURSELF!
NOOOOO!

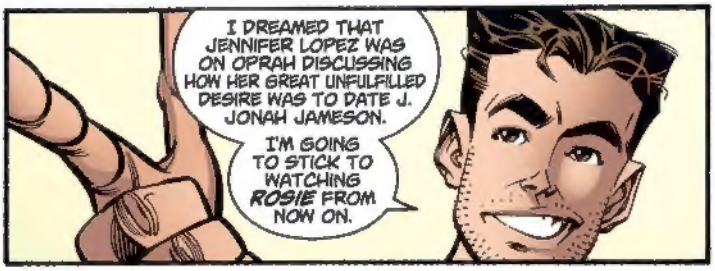

CHILL OUT!
YOU KNOW THEY'RE RIGHT.
YOU ARE YOUR OWN WORST ENEMY AND, ULTIMATELY...
...AT THE END OF THE DAY...
...WITHOUT THEM AND ME...
...YOU ARE NOTHING!
NO!

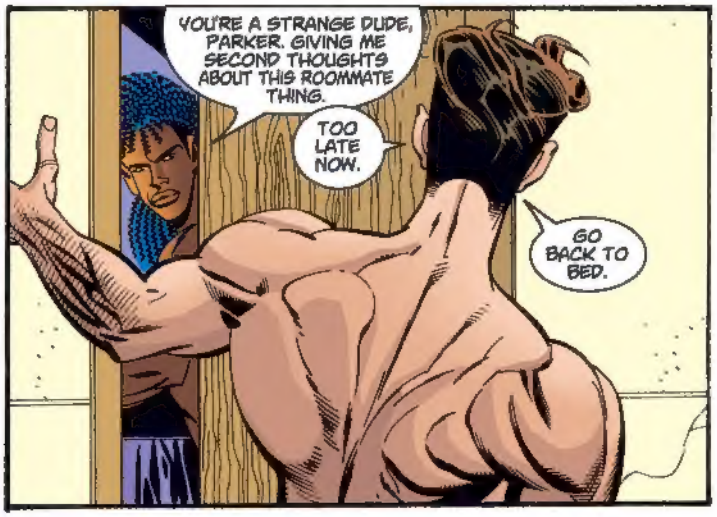

NO!

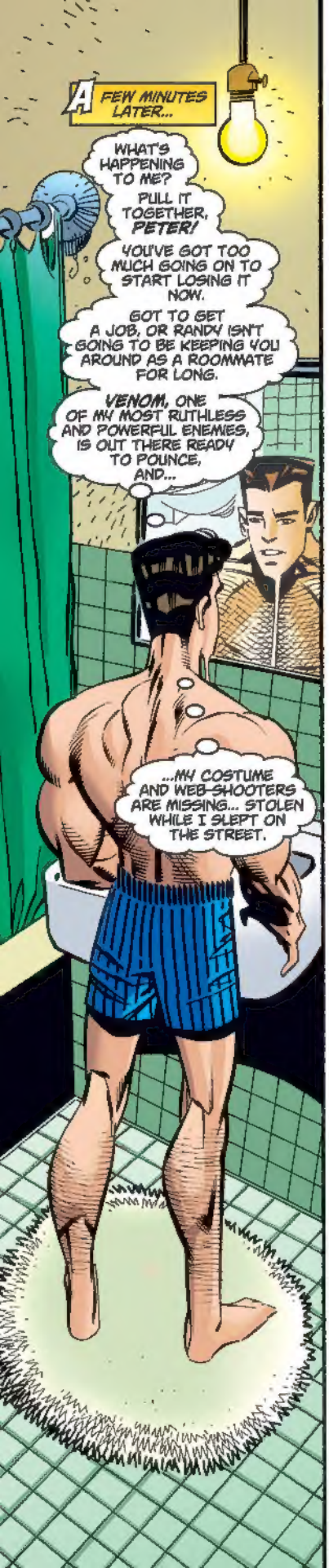
IT WAS ONLY A DREAM.

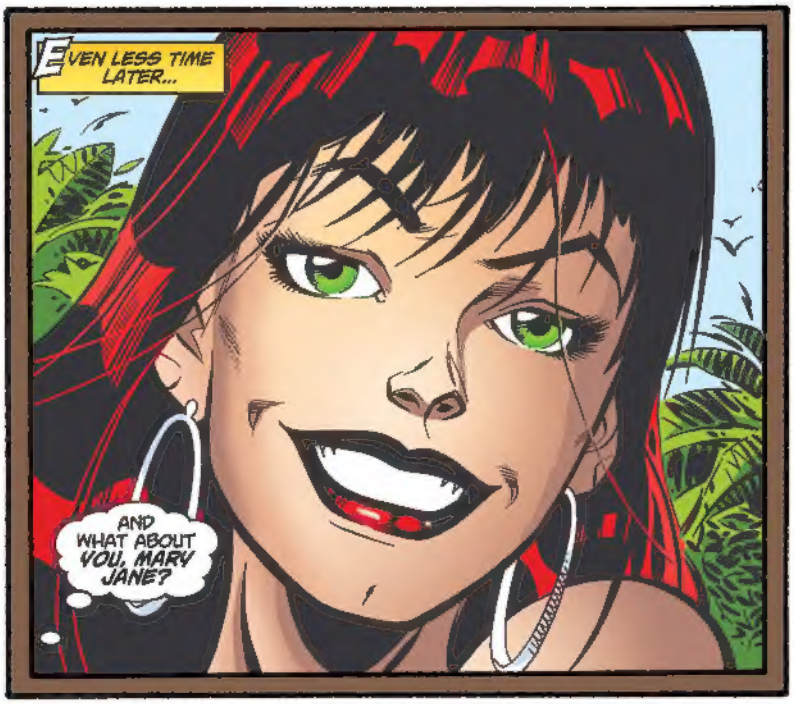
ONLY...

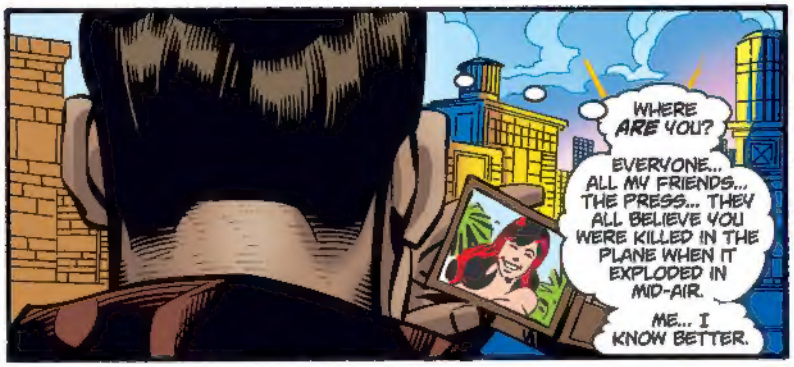

YOU OKAY, PETE?
SOUNDED LIKE A BAD ONE.
YEAH, RANDY. GUESS I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET YOU TALK ME INTO THE DOUBLE ANCHOVIES PIZZA.

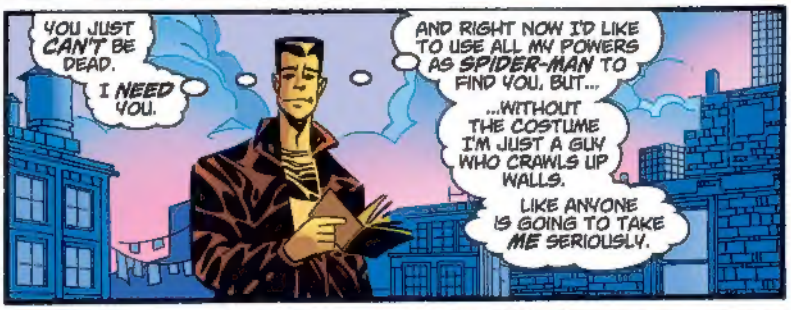

I DREAMED THAT JENNIFER LOPEZ WAS ON OPRAH DISCUSSING HOW HER GREAT UNFULFILLED DESIRE WAS TO DATE J. JONAH JAMESON.
I'M GOING TO STICK TO WATCHING ROSIE FROM NOW ON.


YOU'RE A STRANGE DUDE, PARKER. GIVING ME SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THIS ROOMMATE THING.
TOO LATE NOW.
GO BACK TO BED.

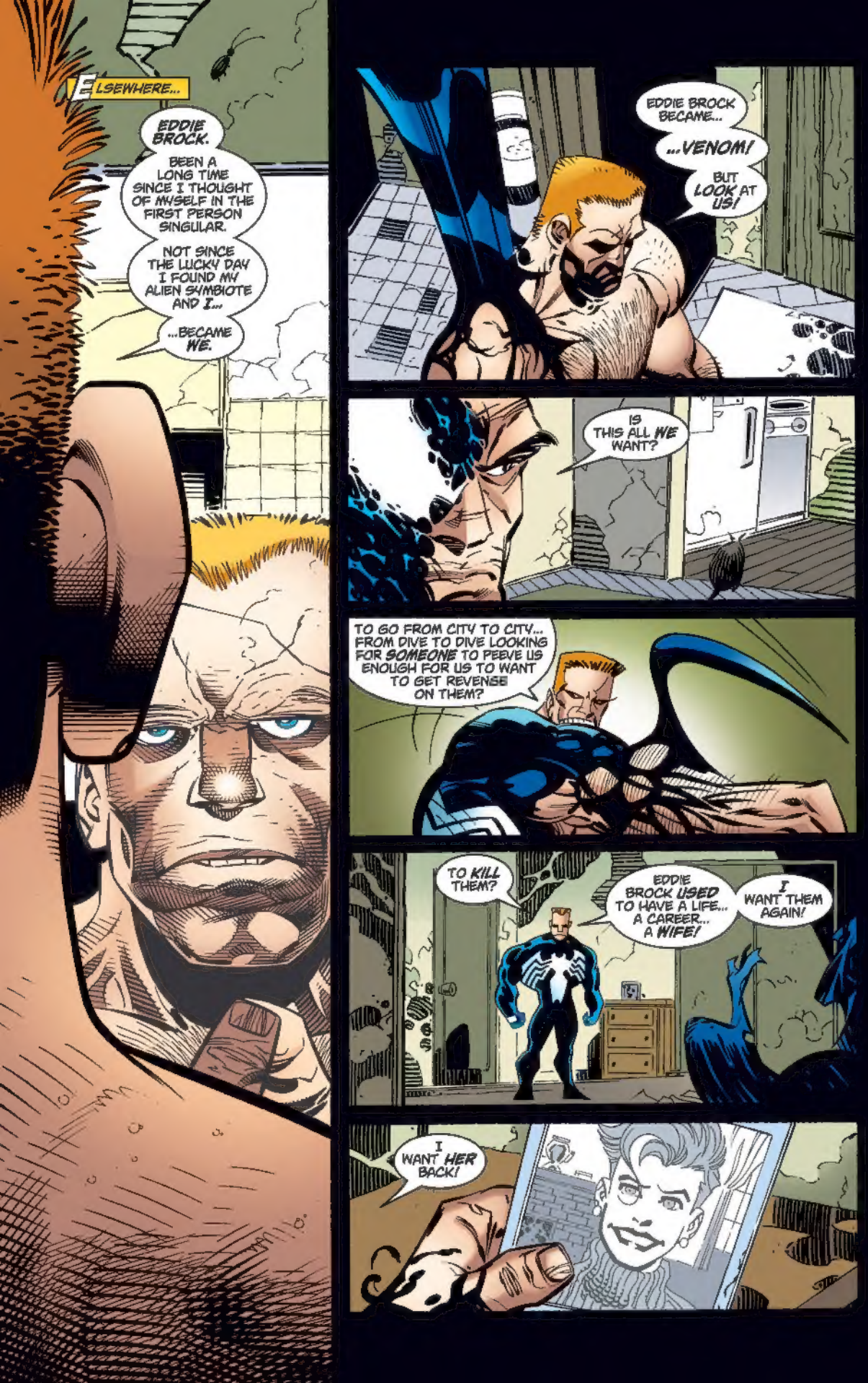

A FEW MINUTES LATER...
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?
PULL IT TOGETHER, PETER!
YOU'VE GOT TOO MUCH GOING ON TO START LOSING IT NOW.
GOT TO GET A JOB, OR RANDY ISN'T GOING TO BE KEEPING YOU AROUND AS A ROOMMATE FOR LONG.
VENOM, ONE OF MY MOST RUTHLESS AND POWERFUL ENEMIES, IS OUT THERE READY TO POUNCE, AND...
...MY COSTUME AND WEB-SHOOTERS ARE MISSING... STOLEN WHILE I SLEPT ON THE STREET.

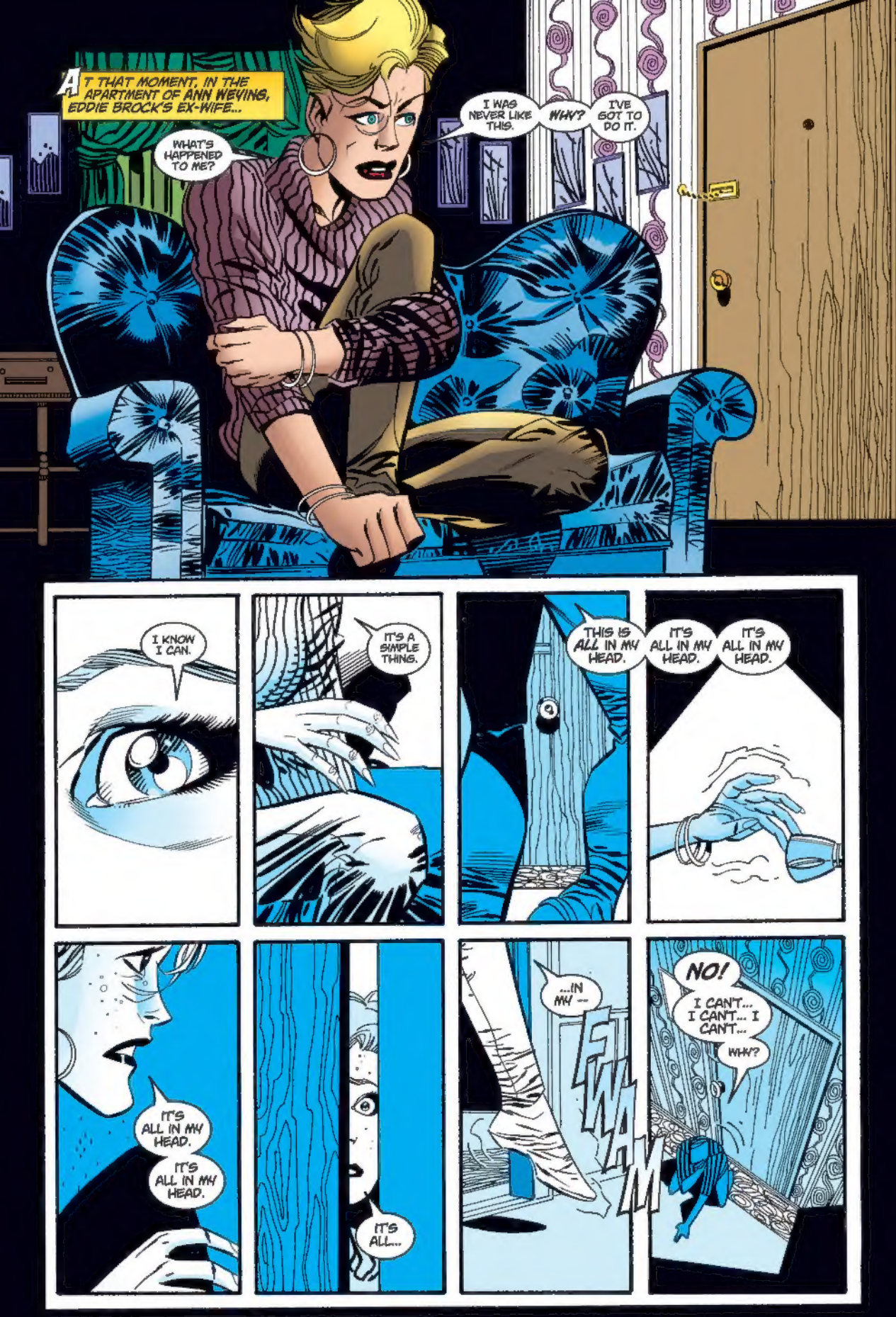

EVEN LESS TIME LATER...
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU, MARY JANE?

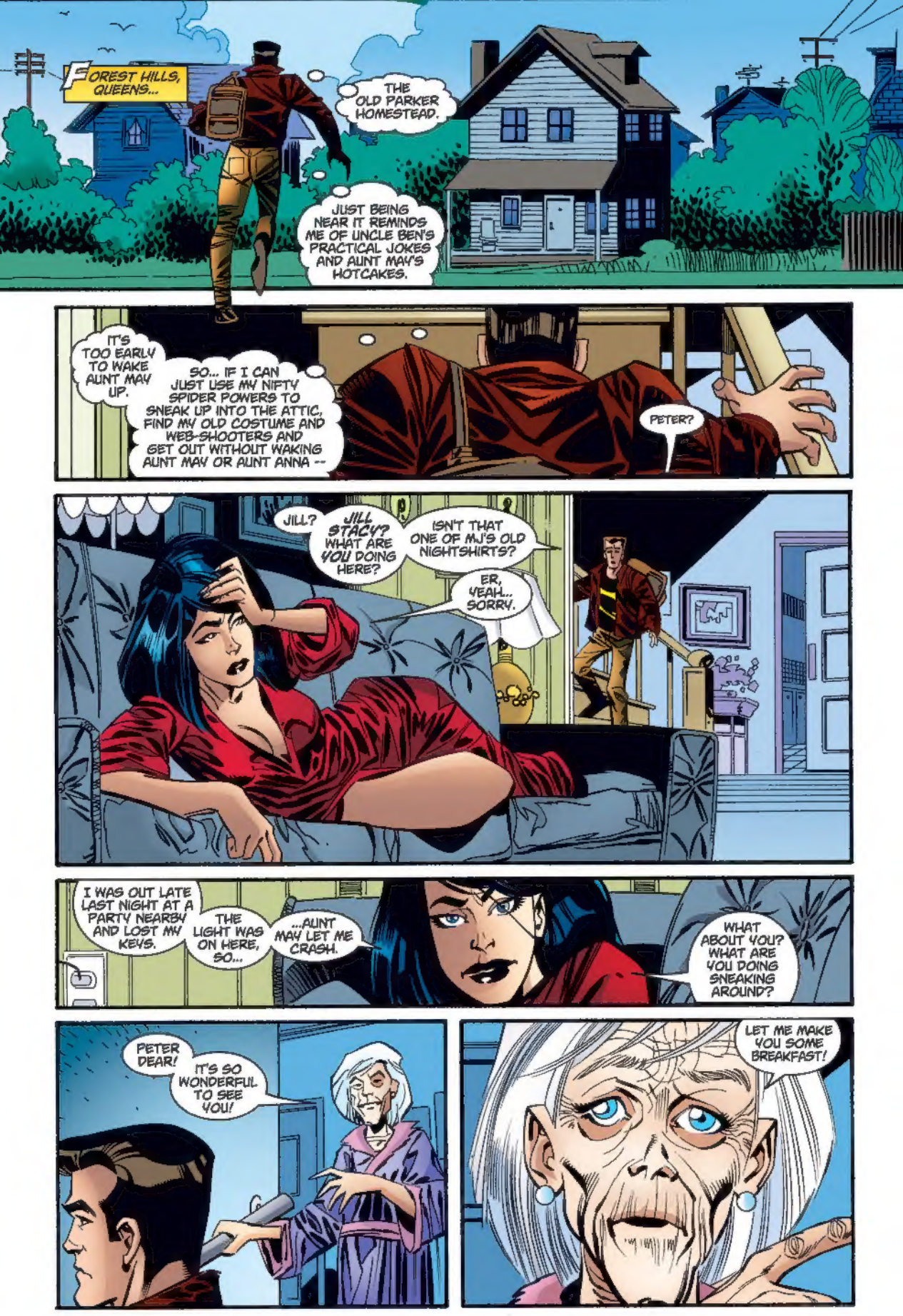

WHERE ARE YOU?
EVERYONE... ALL MY FRIENDS... THE PRESS... THEY ALL BELIEVE YOU WERE KILLED IN THE PLANE WHEN IT EXPLODED IN MID-AIR.
ME... I KNOW BETTER.

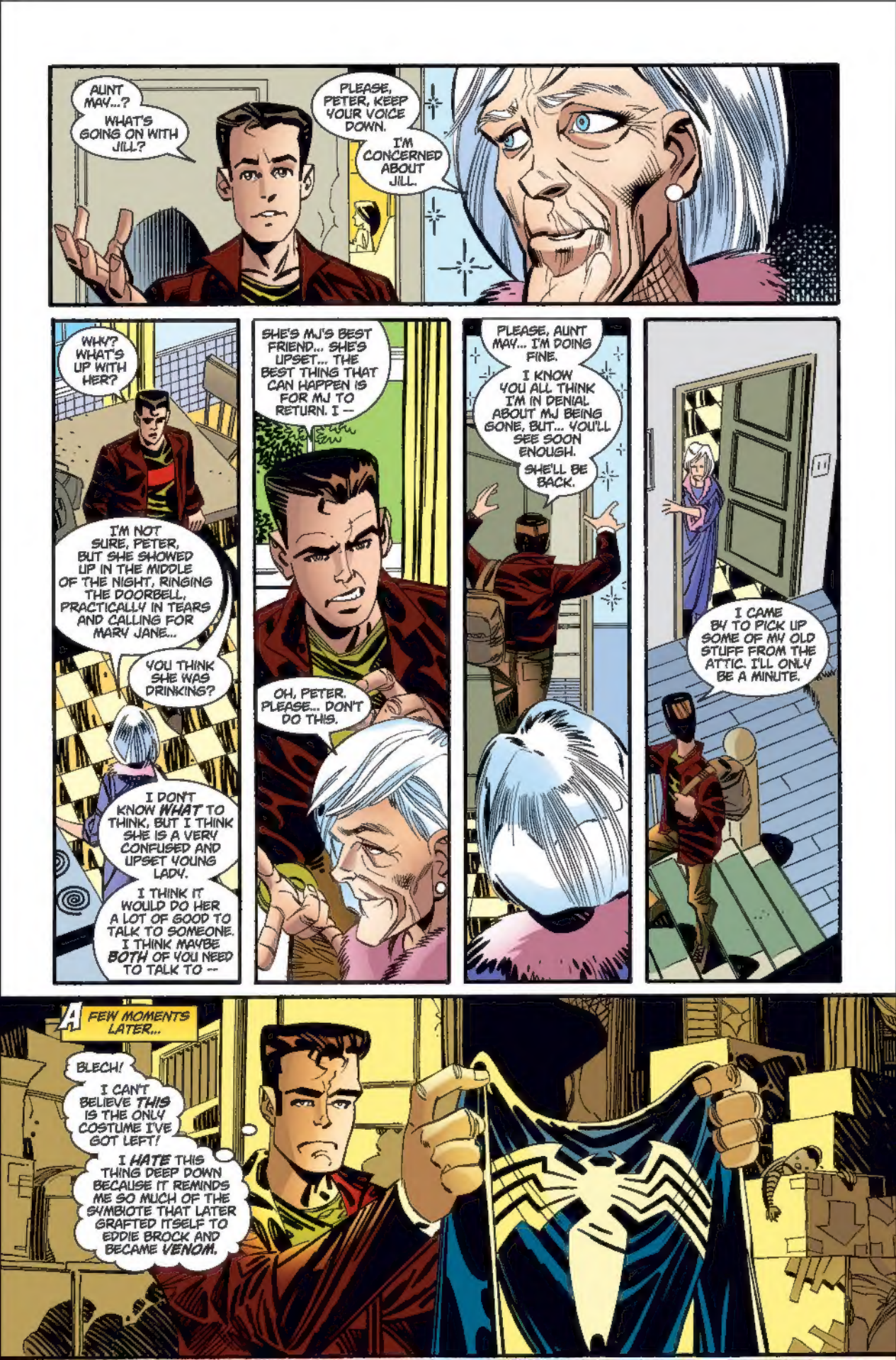

YOU JUST CAN'T BE DEAD.
I NEED YOU.
AND RIGHT NOW I'D LIKE TO USE ALL MY POWERS AS SPIDER-MAN TO FIND YOU. BUT...
...WITHOUT THE COSTUME I'M JUST A GUY WHO CRAWLS UP WALLS.
LIKE ANYONE IS GOING TO TAKE ME SERIOUSLY.

I'M PRETTY SURE I'VE GOT A SPARE COSTUME HIDDEN AWAY IN THE ATTIC AT AUNT MAY'S HOUSE IN QUEENS.
SO... FIRST THINGS FIRST. GOT TO PRIORITIZE...
GET COSTUME.
FIND WIFE.
BEAT UP BAD GUYS.
HAVE A LIFE.

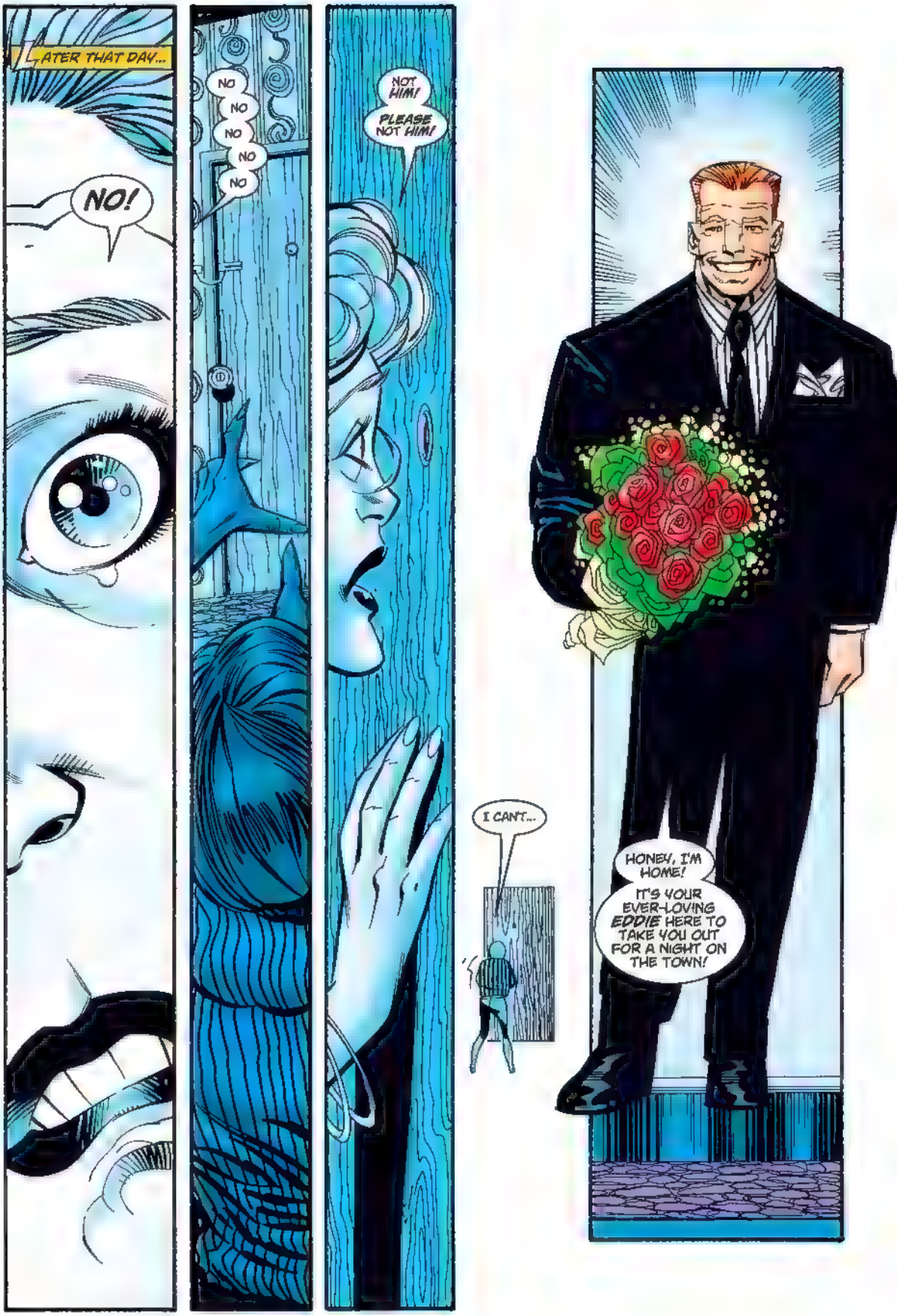

ELSEWHERE...
EDDIE BROCK.
BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I THOUGHT OF MYSELF IN THE FIRST PERSON SINGULAR.
NOT SINCE THE LUCKY DAY I FOUND MY ALIEN SYMBIOTE AND I...
...BECAME WE.
EDDIE BROCK BECAME...
...VENOM!
BUT LOOK AT US!
IS THIS ALL WE WANT?
TO GO FROM CITY TO CITY... FROM DIVE TO DIVE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO PEEVE US ENOUGH FOR US TO WANT TO GET REVENSE ON THEM?
TO KILL THEM?
EDDIE BROCK USED TO HAVE A LIFE... A CAREER... A WIFE!
I WANT THEM AGAIN!
I WANT HER BACK!

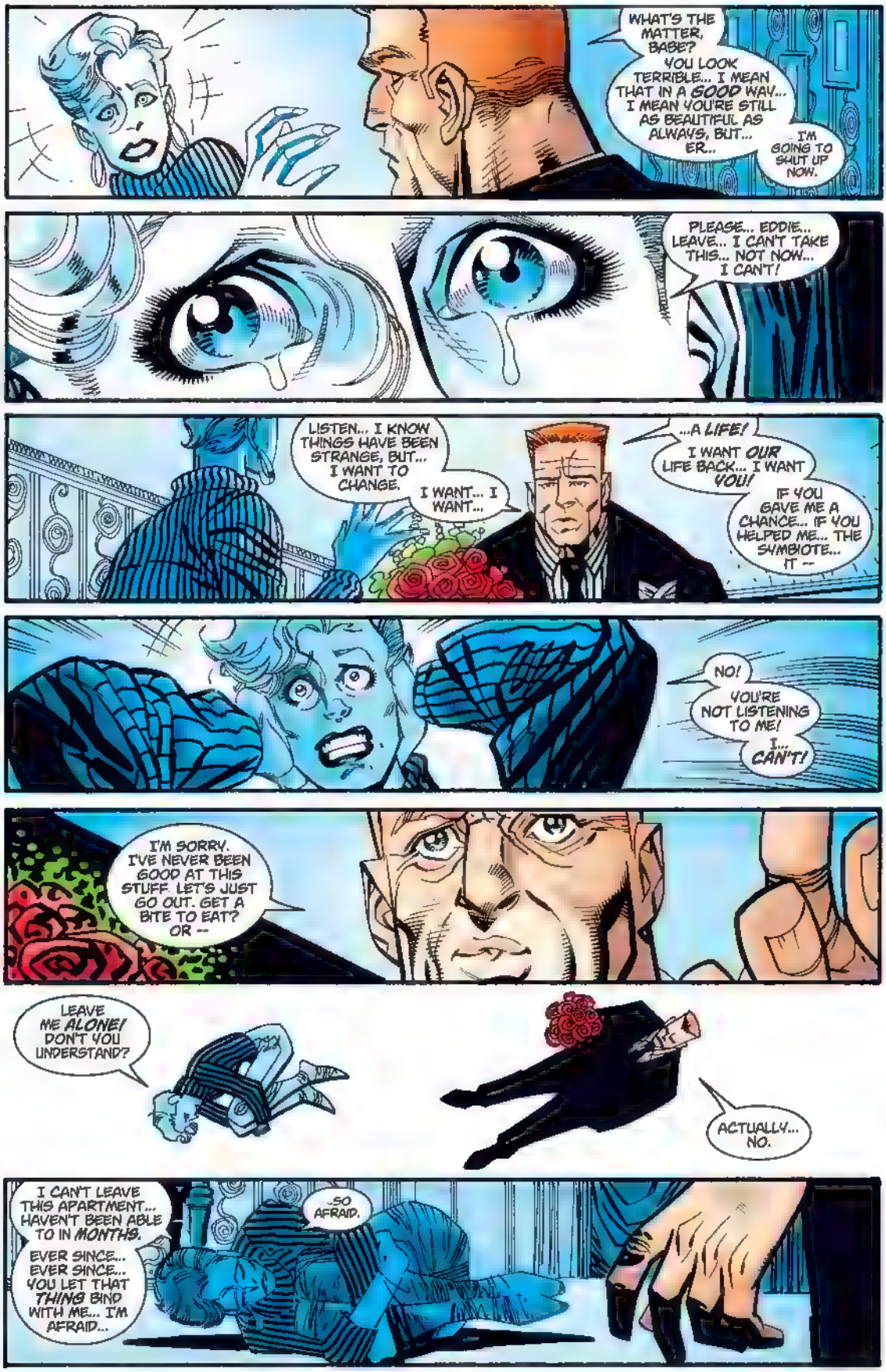

AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE APARTMENT OF ANN WEVINS, EDDIE BROCK'S EX-WIFE...
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME?
I WAS NEVER LIKE THIS.
WHY?
I'VE GOT TO DO IT.
I KNOW I CAN.
IT'S A SIMPLE THING.
THIS IS ALL IN MY HEAD.
IT'S ALL IN MY HEAD.
IT'S ALL IN MY HEAD.
IT'S ALL IN MY HEAD.
IT'S ALL IN MY HEAD.
IT'S ALL...
...IN MY --
FWAM
NO!
I CAN'T... I CAN'T... I CAN'T...
WHY?

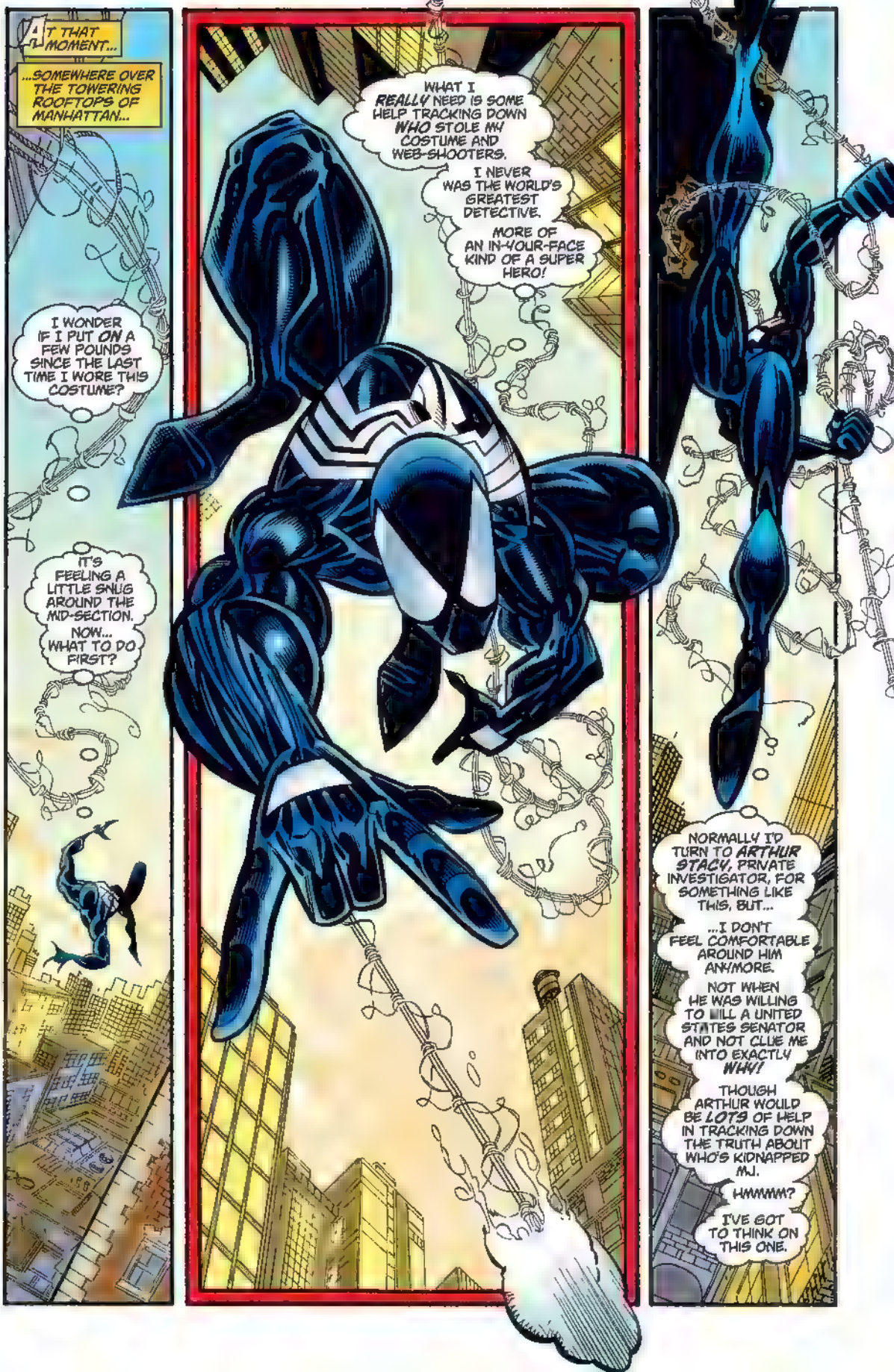

FOREST HILLS, QUEENS...
THE OLD PARKER HOMESTEAD.
JUST BEING NEAR IT REMINDS ME OF UNCLE BEN'S PRACTICAL JOKES AND AUNT MAY'S HOTCAKES.
IT'S TOO EARLY TO WAKE AUNT MAY UP.
SO... IF I CAN JUST USE MY NIFTY SPIDER POWERS TO SNEAK UP INTO THE ATTIC, FIND MY OLD COSTUME AND WEB-SHOOTERS AND GET OUT WITHOUT WAKING AUNT MAY OR AUNT ANNA --
PETER?
JILL?
JILL STACY? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
ISN'T THAT ONE OF MJ'S OLD NIGHTSHIRTS?
ER, YEAH... SORRY.
I WAS OUT LATE LAST NIGHT AT A PARTY NEARBY AND LOST MY KEYS.
THE LIGHT WAS ON HERE, SO...
...AUNT MAY LET ME CRASH.
WHAT ABOUT YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING SNEAKING AROUND?
PETER DEAR!
IT'S SO WONDERFUL TO SEE YOU!
LET ME MAKE YOU SOME BREAKFAST!


AUNT MAY...?
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH JILL?
PLEASE, PETER, KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN.
I'M CONCERNED ABOUT JILL.
WHY? WHAT'S UP WITH HER?
I'M NOT SURE, PETER, BUT SHE SHOWED UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, RINGING THE DOORBELL, PRACTICALLY IN TEARS AND CALLING FOR MARY JANE...
YOU THINK SHE WAS DRINKING?
I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* TO THINK, BUT I THINK SHE IS A VERY CONFUSED AND UPSET YOUNG LADY.
I THINK IT WOULD DO HER A LOT OF GOOD TO TALK TO SOMEONE. I THINK MAYBE *BOTH* OF YOU NEED TO TALK TO --
SHE'S MJ'S BEST FRIEND... SHE'S UPSET... THE BEST THING THAT CAN HAPPEN IS FOR MJ TO RETURN. I --
OH, PETER. PLEASE... DON'T DO THIS.
PLEASE, AUNT MAY... I'M DOING FINE.
I KNOW YOU ALL THINK I'M IN DENIAL ABOUT MJ BEING GONE, BUT... YOU'LL SEE SOON ENOUGH.
SHE'LL BE BACK.
I CAME BY TO PICK UP SOME OF MY OLD STUFF FROM THE ATTIC. I'LL ONLY BE A MINUTE.
A FEW MOMENTS LATER...
BLECH!
I CAN'T BELIEVE *THIS* IS THE ONLY COSTUME I'VE GOT LEFT!
I *HATE* THIS THING DEEP DOWN BECAUSE IT REMINDS ME SO MUCH OF THE SYMBIOTE THAT LATER GRAFTED ITSELF TO EDDIE BROCK AND BECAME *VENOM*.

ND THEN...
I'M SORRY IF I WAS SHORT WITH YOU, AUNT MAY, BUT...
...I DON'T WANT YOU TO WORRY ABOUT ME. OKAY?
IT'S WHAT I DO, DEAR. IT'S WHAT I'VE ALWAYS DONE.
HEY, PETER, YOU MIND IF I WALK ALONG WITH YOU FOR A WHILE?
NO!
ER, YEAH... SURE, JILL. LOVE THE COMPANY.
YOU KNOW MJ... EVEN NOW SHE'S HAVING A MAJOR INFLUENCE ON MY LIFE.
I MEAN, THIS WHOLE THING HAS REALLY MADE ME STOP AND EXAMINE MY LIFE.
HALF THE TIME WE WALK AROUND WHINING AND MOANING LIKE WE'RE IN OUR THIRTIES OR WORSE!
LIFE IS TOO SHORT, PETER.
MJ KNEW THAT.
IT'S ABOUT HAVING FUN!
HEY! THIS IS MY HOUSE! WHY NOT POP IN AND SAY HI TO MY DAD.
HE'S BEEN ASKING ABOUT YOU LOTS LATELY.
SAYS YOU NEVER COME AROUND ANYMORE.
ER... MAYBE ANOTHER TIME, JILL. ER...
...I'VE GOT SOME THINGS TO DO.
AND I CAN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT LOOKING AT ARTHUR STACY AFTER SEEING HIM WILLING TO ASSASSINATE SENATOR WARD.*
SEE YA!
YEAH.
AUNT MAY IS RIGHT. THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON WITH JILL, BUT WHAT?
* In issue #12 — Senator Raif.


LATER THAT DAY...
NO!
NO
NO
NO
NO
NOT HIM!
PLEASE NOT HIM!
I CAN'T...
HONEY, I'M HOME!
IT'S YOUR EVER-LOVING EDDIE HERE TO TAKE YOU OUT FOR A NIGHT ON THE TOWN!


WHAT'S THE MATTER, BABE?
YOU LOOK TERRIBLE... I MEAN THAT IN A GOOD WAY... I MEAN YOU'RE STILL AS BEAUTIFUL AS ALWAYS, BUT... ER...
I'M GOING TO SHUT UP NOW.
PLEASE... EDDIE... LEAVE... I CAN'T TAKE THIS... NOT NOW... I CAN'T!
LISTEN... I KNOW THINGS HAVE BEEN STRANGE, BUT... I WANT TO CHANGE.
I WANT... I WANT...
...A LIFE!
I WANT OUR LIFE BACK... I WANT YOU!
IF YOU GAVE ME A CHANCE... IF YOU HELPED ME... THE SYMBIOTE... IT --
NO!
YOU'RE NOT LISTENING TO ME!
I... CAN'T!
I'M SORRY. I'VE NEVER BEEN GOOD AT THIS STUFF. LET'S JUST GO OUT. GET A BITE TO EAT? OR --
LEAVE ME ALONE! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
ACTUALLY... NO.
I CAN'T LEAVE THIS APARTMENT... HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO IN MONTHS.
EVER SINCE... EVER SINCE... YOU LET THAT THING BIND WITH ME... I'M AFRAID...
...SO AFRAID.


AT THAT MOMENT...
...SOMEWHERE OVER THE TOWERING ROOFTOPS OF MANHATTAN...
I WONDER IF I PUT ON A FEW POUNDS SINCE THE LAST TIME I WORE THIS COSTUME?
IT'S FEELING A LITTLE SNUG AROUND THE MID-SECTION.
NOW... WHAT TO DO FIRST?
WHAT I REALLY NEED IS SOME HELP TRACKING DOWN WHO STOLE MY COSTUME AND WEB-SHOOTERS.
I NEVER WAS THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE.
MORE OF AN IN-YOUR-FACE KIND OF A SUPER HERO!
NORMALLY I'D TURN TO ARTHUR STACY, PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR, FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS, BUT...
...I DON'T FEEL COMFORTABLE AROUND HIM ANYMORE.
NOT WHEN HE WAS WILLING TO KILL A UNITED STATES SENATOR AND NOT CLUE ME INTO EXACTLY WHY!
THOUGH ARTHUR WOULD BE LOTS OF HELP IN TRACKING DOWN THE TRUTH ABOUT WHO'S KIDNAPPED MJ.
HMMMM?
I'VE GOT TO THINK ON THIS ONE.

MEANWHILE...
WHAT YOU NEED IS SOME FRESH AIR AND LIGHT IN THIS PLACE. IT'S LIKE A CAVE!
YOU WERE ALWAYS THE DAY PERSON OF THE TWO OF US!
NO!
IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY, BABY.
I PROMISE.
EDDIE'S GOING TO MAKE IT ALL BETTER.
WHATEVER IT IS.
NO. NO.
NO.
NOT HIM.
THE SYMBIOTE!
HOW COULD YOU BRING IT HERE?!
AFTER... WHAT... IT... DID TO...

NO.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THE SYMBIOTE? I --
THERE!
OH.
I SEE.
DON'T YOU WORRY, BABE.
IF THAT'S WHO'S BUGGING YOU...
...JUST SIT BACK, RELAX AND...
...I'LL HANDLE HIM BUT GOOD!

NO... EDDIE... IT'S YOUR SYMBIOTE.
I WAS WRONG!
IT'S HERE. WITH YOU.
REACHING OUT FOR ME!
CALLING TO ME!
WANTS TO BE PART OF ME AGAIN.
LIKE BEFORE.
I CAN'T GO THROUGH THAT.
* Back in Venom: Sinner Takes All limited series -- Limited Ralf.
NOT AGAIN.
I CAN'T.

MAYBE I'VE JUST GOT TO SUCK IT UP AND CONFRONT ARTHUR ABOUT THE SENATOR WARD THING.
I'D RATHER NOT GO AROUND THINKING OF ARTHUR AS A COLD-BLOODED KILLER.
I KNOW THERE'S SOMETHING MORE TO WARD AND I COULD USE ARTHUR'S HELP —
EXCUSE ME, SPIDER-MAN, BUT...

...YOU'RE SCARING MY WIFE, SO...
...TIME TO
DIE!

ACTUALLY... LONG PAST TIME!
AAARH!
VENOM!
CAME OUT OF THE BLUE WHILE I WAS LOST IN MY THOUGHTS!
DOESN'T HELP THAT HE DOESN'T TRIGGER MY SPIDER-SENSE BECAUSE OF MY ONCE BEING BOUND TO HIS SYMBIOTE.
A SPIDER-SENSE WHICH IS GOING WILD AS THE PAVEMENT IS GETTING WAY TOO CLOSE!
REALLY ONLY GOING TO HAVE ONE SHOT AT THIS ONE.
GOT TO TRY AND SNAG A WEB LINE BEFORE —
YES!
AND I BELIEVE THAT WOULD BE -:SNIFF SNIFF:- A FINE PIECE OF PEPPERMINT GUM!
LOOK! UP IN THE SKY! IT'S A BIR —
DON'T!
IT'S VENOM, SO JUST RUN!

YOU KNOW, BROCK, I SHOULD ACTUALLY THANK YOU FOR THIS.
YOU SAVED ME ALL SORTS OF TIME AND TROUBLE TRACKING YOU DOWN, HAVING TO FIND SOME SORT OF INGENIOUS WAY OF GETTING PAST THAT ALIEN SYMBIOTE...
OH, YOU CAN THANK ME LATER —
NO! WAIT! YOU CAN'T...
...BECAUSE I'LL BE HAVING YOUR BRAINS AS AN APPETIZER TO THE MEAL I'LL BE SHARING WITH MY WIFE!
YOU ARE THE ROMANTIC TYPE, AREN'T YOU, EDDIE?
WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT ANYTHING LIKE ROMANCE?

HERE I AM TRYING TO CHANGE... TURN OVER A NEW LEAF... TRYING TO GET MY LIFE BACK...
...AND YOU'VE GOT TO TRACK ME DOWN!
WHAT WERE YOU DOING... TRYING TO MAKE ME LOOK BAD IN FRONT OF MY WIFE?
AND FOR SOME REASON SHE'S SCARED TO DEATH OF YOU!
JUST MAKES ME REALIZE THAT YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO LET ME CHANGE, SO...
...I MIGHT AS WELL KILL YOU AND GET ON WITH MY LIFE.
WAX
ALL I WANT IS TO HAVE ANN BACK.

IS THAT TOO MUCH TO ASK? TO BE ABLE TO LIVE A NORMAL LIFE WITH MY WIFE?
NO. IT'S NOT.
EXCUSE ME?
WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP YOU?
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
A MAN DESERVES A CHANCE AT A NORMAL LIFE WITH HIS WIFE.
EVERY MAN DOES... EVEN YOU.
ARE YOU KIDDING ME? IS THIS SOME SORT OF TRICK?
NO. I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH... MORE THAN YOU CAN EVER IMAGINE.
I NEVER THOUGHT OF JUST ASKING... GUESS WE BOTH JUST ACT ON INSTINCT... BUT I THINK ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS STAY AWAY FROM HER.
SHE SEEMED PRETTY UNNERVED BY YOUR APPEARANCE.
OKAY. I'LL DO IT.
REALLY?
YUP! BUT JUST FOR TODAY. YOU'RE STILL A WANTED FELON. I'M GOING TO HAVE TO TRY AND BRING YOU DOWN.
TRY IF YOU WANT, BUT JUST STAY AWAY FROM MY WIFE --
AAAIIIE!
ANN!
I KNOW I'M GOING TO LIVE TO REGRET THIS ONE.

MOMENTS LATER...
KRAK
ANN?!
WHERE ARE YOU, BABE --?
ANN?
NO.
HE DID THIS!
IF IT WASN'T FOR HIM THIS NEVER WOULD HAVE HAPPENED!
HE TOOK MY WIFE FROM ME! NOW...
...WE ARE GOING TO TAKE EVERYTHING AWAY FROM HIM!
THE END